

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner’s counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

41	41	5	47
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

95.1% independent of 41 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	39
Self-citation	1
Co-author	1
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher advanced the theoretical understanding of coping by integrating positive affect, establishing a seminal framework that redefined the field's perspective on emotional regulation and adaptive responses.

The researcher established a foundational contribution to the psychology of coping through the publication of 'Positive affect and the other side of coping' in *American Psychologist*. This core work appears to have introduced a novel perspective by linking positive emotional states to coping mechanisms, challenging or expanding existing paradigms that may have focused predominantly on negative affect or stress reduction.

This line of work demonstrates significant originality by addressing a potential gap in the literature regarding the role of positive emotions in adaptive processes. The subsequent publication, 'COPING: Pitfalls and Promise' in *Annual Review of Psychology*, suggests the researcher continued to refine and critically evaluate this theoretical framework. The progression from a specific theoretical proposal to a comprehensive review indicates a sustained effort to clarify the boundaries, limitations, and future directions of this emerging subfield.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by the substantial citation counts for both publications, indicating widespread recognition and influence within the academic community. Furthermore, the high degree of citation independence, with nearly all citing papers originating from independent researchers, underscores the broad impact of this work beyond the researcher's immediate circle. This pattern suggests that the proposed framework has been widely adopted, debated, and built upon by the broader scientific community, validating its importance to the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 18 · 3 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Positive affect and the other side of coping.](#)

2000 · *American Psychologist* · 4,556 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 2,443 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2000 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Psychological Resilience: An Affect-Regulation Framework (2023)	Franklin & Marshall College, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	—
2	The benefits of frequent positive affect: Does happiness lead to success? (2005)	University of California, Riverside, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Missouri	United States	—
3	Stress: Appraisal and Coping (2020)	—	—	—
4	The role of positive emotions in positive psychology: The broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions. (2001)	University of Michigan	United States	Influential
5	Positive emotions broaden the scope of attention and thought-action repertoires (2005)	University of Michigan	United States	—
6	The broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions (2004)	University of Michigan	United States	Influential
7	Resilient individuals use positive emotions to bounce back from negative emotional experiences. (2004)	Boston College, University of Michigan	—	Influential

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
8	Counting blessings versus burdens: an experimental investigation of gratitude and subjective well-being in daily life. (2003)	University of California, Davis	United States	Background

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

FOLLOW-UP WORK

COPING: Pitfalls and Promise

2004 · Annual Review of Psychology · 6,550 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 3,394 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2004 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Teacher well-being: A systematic review of the research literature from the year 2000–2019 (2021)	University of Bern	Switzerland	—
2	Individual differences and changes in subjective wellbeing during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. (2021)	Leipzig University, Saint Louis University	United States	—
3	Coping, emotion regulation, and psychopathology in childhood and adolescence: A meta-analysis and narrative review. (2017)	Vanderbilt University	United States	—
4	The New Psychology of Health: Unlocking the Social Cure (2018)	The University of Queensland	Australia	—
5	Concept of mental health and mental well-being, it's determinants and coping strategies (2024)	ESIC Model Hospital, Gaur Mental Health Clinic and Advanced Deaddiction and Counselling Center, Gautam Hospital and Institute of Behavioural Sciences	India	—
6	Psychological Resilience: A Review and Critique of Definitions, Concepts, and Theory (2013)	Loughborough University	United Kingdom	—
7	Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI) in Mobile Health: Key Components and Design Principles for Ongoing Health Behavior Support (2017)	Northwestern University, Penn State, University of Michigan	United States	Background
8	Lazarus and Folkman's Psychological Stress and Coping Theory (2017)	—	—	—
9	The Cognitive Structure of Emotions (2022)	Northwestern University, University of Virginia	United States	—
10	Making sense of the meaning literature: An integrative review of meaning making and its effects on adjustment to stressful life events. (2010)	University of Connecticut	United States	Background

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher pioneered the investigation of mindfulness meditation's potential to mitigate cellular aging by examining the interplay between cognitive stress and telomere length.

CLAIM: The researcher established a foundational link between mindfulness practices and biological aging markers, specifically focusing on how cognitive stress and meditation influence telomere dynamics. This contribution is anchored in the 2009 publication in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences.

ORIGINALITY: This line of work appears to address a critical gap by bridging psychological interventions with molecular biology. By investigating whether meditation can slow the rate of cellular aging, the researcher introduced a novel perspective on how mental states might directly impact physical health at the cellular level, moving beyond purely psychological outcomes.

SIGNIFICANCE: The core paper has garnered 630 citations, indicating substantial impact within the scientific community. Notably, 97.6% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that this work has sparked broad, external interest and validation across diverse institutions rather than relying on self-citation or local collaboration.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Can Meditation Slow Rate of Cellular Aging? Cognitive Stress, Mindfulness, and Telomeres](#)

2009 · Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences · 630 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 313 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Psychology papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Mechanisms of DNA damage, repair, and mutagenesis (2017)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	—	Background
2	The Varieties of Self-Transcendent Experience (2017)	Harvard Medical School, New York University, Thomas Jefferson University	United States	Influential
3	Mindfulness meditation improves cognition: Evidence of brief mental training (2010)	UNC Charlotte, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, William Patterson University	United States	—
4	Integrating Mindfulness Training into K-12 Education: Fostering the Resilience of Teachers and Students (2013)	Broad Street Psychotherapy Associates, University of Alberta, Wheaton College	Canada, United States	Background
5	Effects of Exercise Training on the Autonomic Nervous System with a Focus on Anti-Inflammatory and Antioxidants Effects (2022)	"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati, Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iasi	Romania	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Mindfulness in Organizations: A Cross-Level Review (2016)	Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis	United States	—
7	Lifestyle Modulators of Neuroplasticity: How Physical Activity, Mental Engagement, and Diet Promote Cognitive Health during Aging (2017)	AState	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher advanced the field by publishing a seminal review in Annual Review of Psychology that synthesized existing knowledge on positive affect and health while identifying critical future research directions.

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is a comprehensive synthesis of the relationship between positive affect and health, articulated in a 2019 paper published in the Annual Review of Psychology. This work serves as a foundational reference point for understanding current knowledge and future trajectories in this domain.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the work addresses a need for consolidation and forward-looking guidance in a field that may have lacked a unified framework. By explicitly asking 'Where Next Should We Go?', the researcher appears to have identified and articulated specific gaps in the literature, offering a roadmap for subsequent inquiry rather than merely reporting isolated findings.

SIGNIFICANCE: The paper has garnered 628 citations, indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 97.6% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the work has influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate network and institution, thereby confirming its broad impact and independent validation.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Positive Affect and Health: What Do We Know and Where Next Should We Go?](#)

2019 · Annual Review of Psychology · 628 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 390 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2019 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Psychoneuroimmunology: An Introduction to Immune-to-Brain Communication and Its Implications for Clinical Psychology (2023)	University of California, Irvine, University of California, Los Angeles	United States	—
2	Psychological well-being as part of the public health debate? Insight into dimensions, interventions, and policy (2019)	Harvard University, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	Canada, United States	Influential
3	Awe as a Pathway to Mental and Physical Health (2022)	University of California, Berkeley	United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Love in the time of COVID: Perceived partner responsiveness buffers people from lower relationship quality associated with COVID-related stressors (2022)	Chulalongkorn University, Radboud University, Texas State University	Brazil, Canada, Italy	—
5	Nature, smells, and human wellbeing (2023)	University of Leeds	United Kingdom	—
6	A systematic review of the effectiveness of self-compassion-related interventions for individuals with chronic physical health conditions (2021)	King's College London, University of Birmingham, Uppsala University	Sweden, United Kingdom	—
7	Sense of Purpose in Life and Cardiovascular Disease: Underlying Mechanisms and Future Directions (2019)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Michigan	United States	SCImago #43 · THE 23 · QS 45	5
Vanderbilt University	United States	SCImago #613 · THE =92 · QS 250	3
Boston College	United States	SCImago #3099 · THE 251–300 · QS =526	2
Washington University in St. Louis	United States	THE 67 · QS 167	2
Northwestern University	United States	THE 30 · QS =42	2
University of California, Irvine	United States	SCImago #329 · THE 97 · QS 293	2
University of Missouri	United States	—	2
University of California, San Francisco	United States	SCImago #98	2
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research	India	—	1
Broad Street Psychotherapy Associates	United States	—	1
Gaur Mental Health Clinic and Advanced Deaddiction and Counselling Center	India	—	1
Wheaton College	United States	—	1
University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa" Iasi	Romania	—	1
Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi	Romania	—	1
Gautam Hospital and Institute of Behavioural Sciences	India	—	1

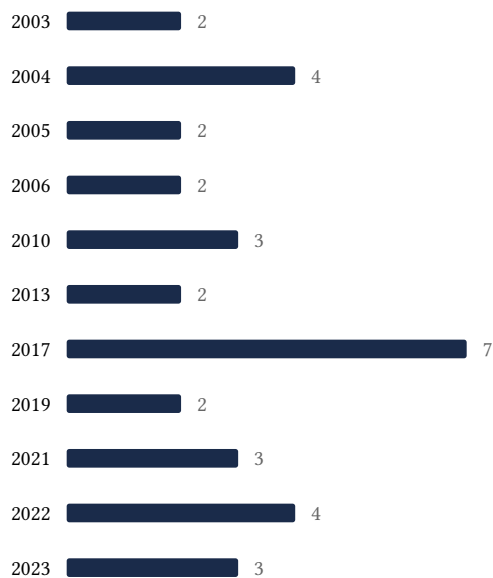
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	30
Canada	4
United Kingdom	4
Switzerland	2
Netherlands	2
Spain	1
Sweden	1
Thailand	1
Romania	1
Brazil	1
India	1
Italy	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar’s own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution’s rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition’s merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition’s exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Positive affect and the other side of coping.	18	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Can Meditation Slow Rate of Cellular Aging? Cognitive Stress, Mindfulness, and Telomeres	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Positive Affect and Health: What Do We Know and Where Next Should We Go?	7	Dhanasar – Prong 2 (well-positioned)